

1. A method for exploring relationships in data stored in a computer readable medium, comprising the steps of:
  - providing a set of operators that includes relational operators and non-relational operators;
  - receiving a query having at least one operator chosen from the set of operators;
  - transforming the query into a set program having at least one operation structure, corresponding to the at least one operator;
  - type-independently, and without inherent meaning, performing an operation, corresponding to the at least one operator, and
  - providing a data structure that cooperates with the operation structure and handles data access and storage associated with the operation.